# BEFORE THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

LYNDA RAY LAWSON-LEWIS 616 Dexter St Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Registered Nurse License No. 672976

Respondent

Case No. 2011-930

OAH No. 2012010647

# **DECISION AND ORDER**

The attached Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby adopted by the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall become effective on **December 14, 2012.** 

IT IS SO ORDERED December 14, 2012.

Raymond Mallel, President

Board of Registered Nursing

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California

1	KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California
2	DIANN ŠOKOLOFF
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General SHANA A. BAGLEY
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 169423
5	1515 Clay Street, 20th Floor P.O. Box 70550
6	Oakland, CA 94612-0550 Telephone: (510) 622-2129
7	Facsimile: (510) 622-2270 Attorneys for Complainant
8	BEFORE THE
9	BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
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11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. 2011-930
12.	LYNDA RAY LAWSON-LEWIS OAH No. 2012010647
13	Santa Rosa, CA 95404 STIPULATED SURRENDER OF LICENSE AND ORDER
14	Registered Nurse License No. 672976
15	Respondent.
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17	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties in this
18	proceeding that the following matters are true:
19	PARTIES
20	1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the Board of
21	Registered Nursing. She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in
22	this matter by Kamala D. Harris, Attorney General of the State of California, by Shana A. Bagley,
23	Deputy Attorney General.
24	2. Lynda Ray Lawson-Lewis (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney
25	Robert F. Hahn, Esq., whose address is Law Offices of Gould & Hahn, 2550 Ninth Street, Suite
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26	101, Berkeley, CA 94710-2551.
26	<ul><li>101, Berkeley, CA 94710-2551.</li><li>3. On or about February 3, 2006, the Board of Registered Nursing issued Registered</li></ul>

License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 2011-930 and will expire on August 31, 2013, unless renewed.

#### **JURISDICTION**

4. Accusation No. 2011-930 was filed before the Board of Registered Nursing (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on May 18, 2011. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 2011-930 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

#### **ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS**

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 2011-930. Respondent also has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel, at her own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

#### **CULPABILITY**

- 8. Respondent understands that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 2011-930, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon her Registered Nurse License.
- 9. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual

basis for the charges in the Accusation and that those charges constitute cause for discipline. Respondent hereby gives up her right to contest that cause for discipline exists based on those charges.

10. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation she enables the Board to issue an order accepting the surrender of her Registered Nurse License without further process.

#### **CONTINGENCY**

- 11. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board of Registered Nursing. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board of Registered Nursing may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and surrender, without notice to or participation by Respondent or her counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Surrender and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 12. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 13. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is intended by the parties to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final, and exclusive embodiment of their agreement. It supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, discussions, negotiations, and commitments (written or oral). This Stipulated Surrender of License and Order may not be altered, amended, modified, supplemented, or otherwise changed except by a writing executed by an authorized representative of each of the parties.
- 14. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Order:

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#### **ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Registered Nurse License No. 672976, issued to Respondent Lynda Ray Lawson-Lewis, is surrendered and accepted by the Board of Registered Nursing.

- The surrender of Respondent's Registered Nurse License and the acceptance of the 1. surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board of Registered Nursing.
- 2. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a Registered Nurse in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.
- 3. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board her pocket license and, if one was issued, her wall certificates on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.
- If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in 4. the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 2011-930 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.
- 5. If and when Respondent's license is reinstated, she shall pay to the Board costs associated with its investigation and enforcement pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3 in the amount of \$7,688.00. Respondent shall be permitted to pay these costs in a payment plan approved by the Board. Nothing in this provision shall be construed to prohibit the Board from reducing the amount of cost recovery upon reinstatement of the license.
- If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or 6. petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 2011-930 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

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Respondent shall not apply for licensure or petition for reinstatement for two (2) years from the effective date of the Board of Registered Nursing's Decision and Order.

#### ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Robert F. Hahn, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Registered Nurse License. I enter into this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Registered Nursing.

Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Lynda Ray Lawson-Lewis the terms and conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. I

approve its form and content.

DATED:

ROBERT F. HAHN, ESO.

Attorney for Respondent

# ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted

for consideration by the Board of Registered Nursing of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

KAMALA D, HARRIS

Attorney General of California DIANN SOKOLOFF

Supervising Deputy Attorney General

SHANA A. BAGLEY Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant

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1	7. Respondent shall not apply for licensure or petition for reinstatement for two (2)
2	years from the effective date of the Board of Registered Nursing's Decision and Order.
3	<u>ACCEPTANCE</u>
4	I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Order and have fully
5	discussed it with my attorney, Robert F. Hahn, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the effect it
6	will have on my Registered Nurse License. I enter into this Stipulated Surrender of License and
7	Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order
8	of the Board of Registered Nursing.
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10	DATED:
11	LYNDA RAY LAWSON-LEWIS Respondent
12	
13	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Lynda Ray Lawson-Lewis the terms and
14	conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. I
15	approve its form and content.
16	DATED:
17	ROBERT F. HAHN, ESQ. Attorney for Respondent
18	
19 <sup>.</sup>	<u>ENDORSEMENT</u>
20	The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted
21	for consideration by the Board of Registered Nursing of the Department of Consumer Affairs.
22	Dated:   Q AUCUST ZO!Z Respectfully submitted,
23	KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California
24	DIANN SOKOLOFF Supervising Deputy Attorney General
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26	SHANA A BAGLEY
27	SIM TILD TO BE I
	Deputy Attorney General  Attorneys for Complainant
28	Deputy Aftorney General  Attorneys for Complainant  SF2011900156/ Stipulation.rtf

# Exhibit A

Accusation No. 2011-930

1	KAMALA D. HARRIS
2	Attorney General of California  DIANN SOKOLOFF
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General SHANA A. BAGLEY
	Deputy Attorney General
4	State Bar No. 169423 1515 Clay Street, 20th Floor
5	P.O. Box 70550 Oakland, CA 94612-0550
. 6	Telephone: (510) 622-2129
7	Facsimile: (510) 622-2270  Attorneys for Complainant
8	BEFORE THE
	BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING
. 9	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA
10	
.11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. 2011 - 930
12	Lynda Ray Lawson-Lewis
13	616 Dexter St Santa Rosa, CA 95404 ACCUSATION
14	Registered Nurse License No. 672976
15	Respondent.
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17	Complainant alleges:
18	PARTIES
19	1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her
20	official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of
21	Consumer Affairs.
22	2. On or about February 3, 2006, the Board of Registered Nursing issued Registered
23	Nurse License Number 672976 to Lynda Ray Lawson-Lewis (Respondent). The Registered
24	Nurse License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in this
25	Accusation and will expire on August 31, 2011, unless renewed.
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Accusation

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board of Registered Nursing (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.
- 4. Code section 118, subdivision (b), provides that the suspension, expiration, or forfeiture of a license, or its suspension, forfeiture, or cancellation by order of the board or by order of a court of law, or its surrender without the written consent of the board, shall not deprive the board of its authority to take disciplinary action against the licensee.
- 5. Code section 2750 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may discipline any licensee, including a licensee holding a temporary or an inactive license, for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with section 2750) of the Nursing Practice Act.
- 6. Code section 2764 provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee or to render a decision imposing discipline on the license.
- 7. Under Code section 2811, subdivision (b), the Board may renew an expired license at any time within eight years after the expiration.

### STATUTORY PROVISIONS

- 8. Code section 2761 states, in pertinent part, that the Board may take disciplinary action against a certified or licensed nurse or deny an application for a certificate or license for unprofessional conduct.
  - 9. Code section 2762 states, in pertinent part:

In addition to other acts constituting unprofessional conduct within the meaning of this chapter [the Nursing Practice Act], it is unprofessional conduct for a person licensed under this chapter to do any of the following:

(b) Use any controlled substance as defined in Division 10 (commencing with Section 11000) of the Health and Safety Code, or any dangerous drug or dangerous device as defined in Section 4022, or alcoholic beverages, to an extent or in a manner dangerous or injurious to himself or herself, any other person, or the public or to the extent that such use impairs his or her ability to conduct with safety to the public the practice authorized by his or her license.

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COST RECOVERY

10. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

#### CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct: Dangerous Use of Alcohol) (Business and Professions Code §§ 2761(a) and 2762(b))

- 11. Respondent has subjected his registered nursing license to discipline under Code section 2761, subdivision (a), for unprofessional conduct, as defined by Code section 2762, subdivision (b), in that on or about September 9, 2009, she used alcohol in a manner dangerous or injurious to herself, any other person, or the public or to the extent that such use impaired her ability to conduct with safety to the public the practice authorized by her license. The circumstances are as follows:
- A. From in or about 1990, through February 2010, Respondent was employed as a registered nurse at Kaiser Foundation Hospital in Santa Rosa, California.
- B. On or about September 9, 2009, Respondent reported late for work for the night shift. She had alcohol on her breath and was observed speaking loudly, fumbling with equipment, speaking to herself and not making sense, walking with an off gait, and acting as if she were under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Respondent admitted to drinking three to four glasses of wine prior to work and admitted that she was under the influence of alcohol at work. Respondent was instructed to return to her home and Respondent complied.
- C. In or about April 2010, Kaiser Foundation Hospital terminated Respondent for failure to meet the deadlines required by the Last Chance Agreement, Kaiser's Diversion Program.

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#### PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters in this Accusation alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Registered Nursing issue a decision:

- Revoking or suspending Registered Nurse License Number 672976, issued to Lynda
   Ray Lawson-Lewis;
- 2. Ordering Lynda Ray Lawson-Lewis to pay the Board of Registered Nursing the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3; and
  - 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED:

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LOUISE R. BAILEY, M.ED., RN

Executive Officer

Board of Registered Nursing
Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California

Complainant

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Accusation